



Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release

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2008 COUNTY BUDGET PRESERVES MANY TRANSIT SEGMENTS ON THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S CHOPPING BLOCK

County Board also votes to remove Paratransit fare increase

Milwaukee, WI – The 2008 County Budget, adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on Monday, preserves more than a dozen Milwaukee County Transit System route segments in Milwaukee County that were eliminated in the County Executive's 2008 Recommended Budget.

The restorations were largely made possible due to the efforts of State Senator Lena Taylor, who prioritized funding for Milwaukee County in the State Budget, particularly in the area of Mass Transit. The 2007-09 State Budget, approved by the Senate and the Assembly and signed by Governor Jim Doyle, provides transit systems with a 2.5% increase in aid and \$3.2 million per year specifically for the Milwaukee County Transit System.

"Helping County residents get to work, school, church, the doctor and shopping should be one of our top priorities," said Board Chairman Lee Holloway, who sponsored an amendment restoring service to eight of the route segments. "With 17 members of the County Board supporting my plan, we have a **veto-proof majority**, guaranteeing that these route segments will be restored."

The route segment restorations include:

- Route 12 north of Florist Avenue, serving Supervisors Toni Clark's and Joe Rice's districts
- Route 23 north and west of 91st and Mill Road, serving riders in Supervisors Rice's and Roger Quindel's districts
- Route 31, west of 76th Street in Supervisors Jim "Luigi" Schmitt's and Lynne De Bruin's districts
- Route 67, south of Connell on 84th and 92nd Streets in Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr.'s, district
- Routes 19/20 South of Layton in Supervisor Richard D. Nyklewicz, Jr.'s, district

- Routes 15 and 55 in Supervisor Patricia Jursik's district
- Route 35 south of Howard Avenue in Supervisors Dan Devine's and Mark Borkowski's districts
- Route 27 to the Glendale Industrial Park in Supervisor James G. White's district
- Route 80 south of Mitchell International Airport in Supervisors Nyklewicz's and Paul Cesarz's districts
- Route 40 to the Ryan Road Park and Ride lot in Supervisor Cesarz's district
- Route 49 to the Green Bay and Brown Deer Park and Ride lots in Supervisor Rice's district

In addition, a Budget Amendment from Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic prevented a fare increase for disabled riders who use the County's paratransit service. "Transit Plus riders do not have any alternatives. The County Executive's proposal would have actually raised the round-trip fare from \$6.50 to \$8," Supervisor Dimitrijevic said. "I'm pleased my colleagues voted to avoid this drastic increase proposed by the County Executive. This is about promoting independence for those in our community who need the help most. Once again, the community spoke and the County Board is acting."

While the County Board was able to restore these routes, it is not a solution for the long-term needs of the Milwaukee County Transit System. "The County Executive has repeatedly vetoed advisory referenda on additional sales taxes to fund mass transit and other priorities," said Supervisor Nyklewicz, Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee. "Now is the time for him to propose a viable non-property tax dedicated funding source that can earn the approval of the Governor and the State Legislature."

The County Board will consider any vetoes from the County Executive in reference to the 2008 County Budget on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

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